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Serial No.: 10/527,467

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 12-14 as indicated in the Listing of Claims.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1        1.        (Currently amended) A diverter switch for branching off  
2 bulk-material flows, having a rotary plug (1) disposed in a  
3 stationary housing (2) having three connecting openings (4, 5, 6)  
4 said rotary plug and housing providing a first position  
5 connecting a first connecting-opening pair (4, 5) a second  
6 position, connecting a second connecting-opening pair (4, 6), and  
7 a gap (10) disposed between said rotary plug (1) and said housing  
8 wherein the improvement comprises a rotary plug (1) and/or  
9 housing (2) having at least one labyrinth seal arrangement (7),  
10 having ~~at least one~~ a labyrinth seal groove (8, 9), ~~wherein the~~  
11 ~~labyrinth seal groove (8) of~~ comprised of a plurality of seal  
12 grooves disposed on the rotary plug (1) ~~is arranged largely~~

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~~13 continuously around at least one opening of a through channel (3)~~  
~~14 and is axially displaced from an end of said through channel,~~  
~~15 and/or in that the labyrinth seal groove (9) of the housing (2)~~  
16 is arranged largely continuously and a plurality of seal grooves  
17 disposed around at least one of the connecting openings (4, 5, 6)  
~~18 and is axially or radially displaced from an end of a connecting~~  
19 ~~opening of said housing~~ in said housing (2).

1        2. (Currently amended) The diverter switch according to  
2 Claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said plurality of ~~labyrinth~~  
3 seal grooves (8, 9) are arranged next to one another.

1        3. (Original) The diverter switch according to claim 1 or 2  
2 further comprising at least one feed opening (12) for a feed  
3 channel for feeding a gap fluid into the gap (10) between rotary  
4 plug (1) and housing (2).

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1      4. (Original) The diverter switch according to claim 1 or 2  
2 further comprising a feed opening (12) in the labyrinth seal  
3 groove (8, 9).

1      5. (Currently amended) The diverter switch according to  
2 claim 1 or 2 further comprising means for insuring the pressure  
3 of ~~the~~ a gap fluid is greater than a pressure of ~~the~~ a conveying  
4 fluid.

1      6. (Currently amended) The diverter switch according to  
2 claim 1 or 2 wherein the composition of ~~the~~ a gap fluid is  
3 substantially the same as the composition of ~~the~~ a conveying  
4 fluid.

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1        7. (Original) The diverter switch according to claim 1 or  
2 2 wherein the maximum width (W) of the gap (10) is smaller than  
3 or equal to five-tenths of a millimetre ( $W \leq 5/10$  mm).

1        8. (Original) The diverter switch of claim 1 or 2 wherein  
2 the maximum width (W) of the gap 10 is smaller than or equal to  
3 three-tenths of a millimetre ( $W \leq 3/10$  mm).

1        9. (Currently amended) A fluid diverter device  
2 comprising:

3        (a) a housing having a plurality of through channels and a  
4 seat for a rotatable plug;

5        (b) a rotatable plug disposed in said seat selectively  
6 rotatably interconnecting at least one of said plurality of  
7 through channels;

8        (c) a labyrinth seal having a plurality of sealing grooves  
9 ~~displaced axially or radially from an end of one of said~~  
10 ~~plurality of through channels and disposed between said housing~~

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11 ~~and on said rotatable plug and a plurality of sealing grooves~~  
12 disposed in said seat for said rotatable plug; and  
13 (d) a fluid gap seal disposed intermediate said  
14 housing and said rotatable plug in communication with said ~~at~~  
15 ~~least one seal groove~~ plurality of sealing grooves of said  
16 labyrinth seal.

1 10. (Original) The fluid diverter of claim 9 further  
2 comprising at least one feed channel in communication with said  
3 fluid gap seal.

1 11. (Original) The fluid diverter of claim 10 further  
2 comprising means for increasing the pressure of the gap fluid to  
3 a pressure greater than the conveying fluid.

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1        12. (Currently amended) The fluid diverter of claim 9  
2 wherein said plurality of grooves ~~are~~ disposed on said rotatable  
3 plug ~~and are disposed on said plurality of channels housing are~~  
4 concentrically arranged.

1        13. (Currently amended) The fluid diverter of claim 12  
2 wherein said plurality of grooves disposed on said rotatable plug  
3 and said plurality of grooves disposed ~~on~~ in said ~~housing~~ seat  
4 are concentrically staggered.

1        14. (Currently amended) A fluid device for diverting  
2 fluids comprising:

3        (a) a housing having a plurality of through channels and a  
4 seat for a rotatable plug;

5        (b) a rotatable plug disposed in said seat selectively

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6 rotatably interconnecting at least two of said plurality of  
7 through channels;

8 (c) a labyrinth seal having a plurality of concentric  
9 grooves disposed ~~in~~ on said rotatable plug ~~or~~ and in said seat  
10 around at least one opening of said plurality of through  
11 channels, said plurality of concentric grooves being axially or  
12 ~~radially displaced from at least one end of said plurality of~~  
13 ~~through channels~~ on said rotatable plug and in said seat being  
14 concentrically staggered;

15 (d) a fluid gap seal disposed in said seat for said  
16 rotatable plug or in said rotatable plug; and

17 (e) a fluid feed channel communicating with said fluid gap  
18 seal.